

***It's that time of year...time to submit requests  
for donations from Zion's Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund!***

**What is the purpose of the "Touching Tomorrow" Endowment fund?**

The Endowment Fund distributes money, in the form of grants, for mission and outreach beyond the normal church budget and usually, beyond the church walls. The aim of such grants is to "Touch Tomorrow," allowing for present and future ministry.

**Who oversees the Touching Tomorrow Fund?**

A Touching Tomorrow Committee oversees the Fund. This committee meets annually to decide expenditures based on the financial performance of the account and the specific requests. These purchases are not approved by council, but council approves the members of the committee. The committee currently consists of Jim Cascarino, Jim Gill (Chair), Terry Ludwig, Michelle Bucks, and Christine Techky. If you'd like to help, please see Jim Gill or Pastor Caitlin.

**Where does the money come from in the Touching Tomorrow Fund?**

The original money came from a large bequest to the church. Currently the fund has roughly \$420,000 in principal investments, which includes the original gift, but also later gifts and interest added to principal. Each year grants come from the interest and dividends on the account. These have varied over time. The hope is that in the future, more people will consider giving money, either in honor of loved ones, or as part of their estate planning, to the Touching Tomorrow Fund.

**How can I contribute to the Touching Tomorrow Fund?**

Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, and you may benefit from significant tax advantages. By using a combination of certain financial and insurance products, you can even leave a bigger inheritance to your loved ones while preserving your desired gift to the fund. For more information on this strategy, you may consult your estate attorney or talk with Jim Gill, Zion's representative from Thrivent Financial.

**What kind of things has the Touching Tomorrow Fund supported?**

Between 2006 and 2022, the Fund distributed over \$205,000 to various projects, including:

- Assistance to Lutheran Camping Corporation to offset impacts of COVID -19
- Appreciation and support to front line workers at local healthcare facilities
- Donations to Zion's member towards studies at United Lutheran Seminary
- Funding of the Capital Campaign to pay down the loan for Zion's building renovations
- Continued support for Zion's Preschool with scholarships for preschool families in need
- Support for several local charities, including Habitat for Humanity, LCCM and NLFES
- 74 sets of sheets and blankets for the American House
- funding to help provide clean drinking water in South Sudan and food in Ethiopia
- contributions to several non-profits whose income suffered during COVID

**What kind of money is available for grants this year?**

Because the endowment fund is invested conservatively, fluctuations in the returns mean that each year's donation amount will vary. In 2022, we were unable to distribute any funds, but in 2023 we are blessed to be able to distribute over \$20,000!

**How can you make a request for a project?**

Fill out the front of this paper by **Dec 1, 2023**, and return to Zion's by email ([zionsjonestown@gmail.com](mailto:zionsjonestown@gmail.com)), snail mail (Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church, PO Box 658, Jonestown, PA 17038) or by placing it in the "Endowment" mailbox at church, located outside the secretary's office.

The most successful applications tend to benefit educational ministries (scholarships, youth group, leadership training), local ministries (innovative congregational ministries, seed money, or emergency appeals), extended ministries (national, international, disaster-related), and charities with specific needs.

If you have any questions about applying for these monies, the purpose of our Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund, or how to contribute to the endowment, please see any member of the Committee or Pastor Caitlin.

ZION'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 103 E. Market Street, Jonestown, PA 17038 (717) 865-2848

**ZION'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**TOUCHING TOMORROW ENDOWMENT FUND REQUEST FORM**

Name of Person Submitting Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Contact Information of the Individual or Organization who will benefit from your request

Details of Purpose/Explanation of Request:

Amount of Grant Requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If granted, may we publicize the fulfillment of the request?

☐

Yes, you may publicize

☐

No, please do not publicize

**DEADLINE/DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

- Deadline for Receipt of All Requests  
December 1, 2023
- Date to be Informed if Request is Not Successful  
December 18, 2023
- Distribution of Funds for Successful Requests  
December 31, 2023

For Zion's Use Only

Request Granted:      Yes ☐      No ☐

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_